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Subject: Weekend Report from R8

Weekend Report from R8

Utah Regional Haze -- The Region has been developing a proposed action on the state's SIP. A consent decree requires a signed proposed rulemaking by Nov. 19 and final action by March 31, 2016. In coordination with OAR, the Region had a consultant conduct a cost analysis to assess Utah's selection of SCR as the BART benchmark for comparison to the BTB alternative. We have that cost analysis now and the costs are much lower than estimated by PacifiCorp. We will be working closely with OGC and OAQPS in the coming weeks on subsequent actions once the Region and OAR are aligned on a path forward, and to that end, we have a call on Tuesday with Janet and Debbie.

Uintah Basin -- Since the time I began as RA, Utah DEQ has complained that EPA needed to do more to address emissions from oil and gas development on the U&O Reservation. This past summer, I led a delegation to meet with the Ute Tribe Chairman and Council, and as a result of that conversation, as well as subsequent coordination with the Tribe, we have begun a path on proposing a Reservation-specific Rule (FIP). On Friday, The UT DEQ Director, Alan Matheson, called to say that Governor Herbert has been receiving a lot of incoming from the oil and gas industry concerned that EPA could tighten regulations on the Reservation lands. As a result of these concerns, the Governor will be hosting a conversation with the industry this week. I tried to understand from Alan if there has been a change in policy from the State, and it was not real clear from his answer. So, whereas we started this process at the urging of the State, we may now get some push back.

Ten Tribes Partnership Meeting and Gold King Mine -- Last week's meeting that Jared and I attended (and Sam Coleman joined by phone) went very well. The tribes expressed a desire for better communication and collaboration; would like to have input into the discussion about NPL for GKM and Cement Creek; and would like to understand the broader threat of acid mine discharge to the Colorado River from the thousands of mines that drain into the basin.

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